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APRIL 1952



*National
Home Demonstration
Week . . .
April 27 to May 3, 1952*

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The Cover

● The cover picture this month, taken by William J. Forsythe of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, typifies the American rural family and illustrates the theme of National Home Demonstration Week, Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World. Director P. O. Davis of Alabama expresses the idea in this way: "As a farm home improves itself as a wholesome place for men, women, and children to live and grow, it also improves itself in relation to the farm and to other people so that both the farm and the home may participate properly and jointly in making the world of tomorrow a better world."

Ear to the Ground

● Telegrams from directors in two States hard it by tornadoes prove merit of extension agents. Extension offices in Arkansas were designated as counseling headquarters to direct the stricken people to the sources of help. The State Home Demonstration Council immediately began collecting bedding for the homeless. Tennessee agents in the eight affected counties visited the stricken families, and helped to survey the need and channeled the gifts and loans available for their use.

● A visit from Edgar S. Borup of the American Music Conference brings to mind that May 4-11 is National Music Week, striking the keynote "Make Your Life More Musical." Mr. Borup's recent schedule has included among others Kansas Farm and Home Week, Washington Leaders' conference, a home demonstration chorus in Hancock County, Maine, 4-H conferences in Tennessee and Florida. His commitments multiply.

● Arousing more comment than any recent series of articles is that on the Job of the County Agent which will be resumed next month.

● A big tree-planting event near St. Peter, Minn., will protect 3,000 acres of farm land from destructive winds. How the idea developed will be featured in the May issue, together with some pointers on successful farm shows in North Dakota and Montana.

EXTENSION SERVICE
Review

Official Organ of the
Cooperative Extension Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

VOL. 23

APRIL 1952

NO. 4

Prepared in Division of Extension Information

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Published monthly by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (September 7, 1951). The REVIEW is issued free by law to workers engaged in extension activities. Others may obtain copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 10 cents per copy or by subscription at \$1.00 a year, domestic, and \$1.50 foreign.



THE AUTHOR

Home Demonstration Agent Anna K. Williams, Adams County, Ind., wrote this letter for her fellow Hoosier agents. It expresses so well the spirit of the week that the Hoosiers offered to share the message with all agents in the Nation who are looking forward to an observance of National Home Demonstration Week. A former 4-H Club girl, and a successful agent, she is proud of the county program planning, the popular farm women's camp, the tailoring schools, and the achievements of the young folks in 4-H Clubs. In addition, she manages to work in summer school sessions, in training beginning agents, and showing foreign visitors how the local home demonstration program works.

WE ARE looking toward another Home Demonstration Week. As we try to focus our sight on this observance, into the field of vision come remembrances of many pleasant experiences—feeling of accomplishment—hopes for the future.

It is gratifying to work with the energetic, reasonable people who participate in the extension program. Their willingness to work together for their individual and

Looking Toward Home Demonstration Week

*An open letter to all home demonstration agents
from Anna K. Williams, Decatur, Ind.*

community improvement gives us faith in the worth-whileness of our efforts toward building democracy. The founders of our American Way were brave people with attitudes similar to those of our cooperators. If these ideas continue to grow it will be due to the efforts of just such people.

It is our business to help rural women see clearly the importance of their homemaking and citizenship responsibilities. Our high standards of living have been achieved and will be maintained or increased as homemakers understand the needs and opportunities of their families. In a successful family the members attain matur-

ity, physical—emotional—social. The homemaker guiding this development occupies the key spot of our home demonstration program. May we ever see the true importance of mending overalls or weaving cane seats in chairs or serving tea or any of the details of our work. Then our emphasis will be well directed.

The community activities of our clubs have helped the members assume leadership. This unselfish giving of effort should continue to make them effective participants in public affairs.

If the general public is made conscious of these, our purposes, Home Demonstration Week will have been a great success.

They Got Their Doctor

PROVIDING the Smithville Community of Arkansas with the services of a doctor—that was what Smithville Home Demonstration Club women set out to do last year.

Mrs. Turnmire Carroll, home demonstration agent in Lawrence County, said recently that the success in the project has provided a much needed service to the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Last year the club obtained a large one-room building and par-

tially equipped it. The home demonstration club women then arranged for a young doctor from a neighboring town to spend two afternoons a week there.

This year the club has raised enough money to install a partition in the room to make a comfortable reception room and private office.

The entire building was decorated by the women of the club. They refinished the furniture, did some reupholstering and donated table lamps, cushions and pictures. Smithville takes good care of its doctor.

The Homemaker Gets a Break

MARIGLEE BLACKER, Publicity Chairman, Linn County (Oreg.) Home Demonstration Clubs

BASED on the homemaker's need of a break in the domestic routine and sparked by the spirit of the home demonstration agents, homemakers' camps have been organized in Oregon to give wives and mothers a few days away from the responsibilities of home and families. At a minimum charge, camps were held last year in Linn, Josephine, and Coos Counties. Jackson and Klamath Counties have a joint camp organized by the homemakers themselves without the help of a home demonstration agent.

The homemakers of Linn County camp 4 days in the beautiful, tree-shaded rustic Camp Longbow, on the Santian River. From afternoon of the first day until afternoon of the last day the women do just as they please. Nothing is required except an hour's rest after lunch each day and to be at meals on time—hearty appetites for food prepared and served by someone else make for no loitering when the meal bell rings. No one but a busy homemaker can fully appreciate the joy of sitting down to a meal which she did not prepare and getting up from the table leaving dishes to be washed by someone else.

The first day sees much giggling and chatter as old campers greet one another and new campers are welcomed and made to feel at home. Women from all walks of life and of all ages, from young mothers to grandmothers, reach a common level as responsibilities drop from their shoulders and they join in the activities of camp.

For the athletic type there are trails to explore and volleyball or softball games. Crafts, such as corset-making, metal-working, or shell jewelry, taught by experts who come to camp for that purpose, are available to all who want to learn—and everyone does. Many gifts are made with skills acquired at camp.

A law-enforcing body is set up, with a sheriff, deputies, and judge.

Every morning court is held where "criminals" are tried for misdemeanors of all kinds—if a camper does not do something she can be tried for she is "framed" by those less fortunate. Sentences are varied and amusing—one group of wrongdoers required to carry wood to the judge's cabin retaliated by putting the wood in her bed.

Camp has its serious side as well—every evening vespers are held in an amphitheatre roofed by the sky and surrounded by stately trees. Here one can truly worship, and the blessings of family, home and free country are brought clearly before the worshipers.

A camping experience, such as homemakers' camps give, is a benefit to the family as well as to the homemaker herself. Away from the petty irritations of day-to-day rou-

tine the mother can come back to her family with a renewed faith in herself and them. Enriched by her contacts with other women in an environment that breaks down barriers and enables all to compare experiences and problems, each homemaker is made to realize the value of the life she has made for herself.

At present the number of women attending homemakers' camps is comparatively small, but efforts are being made to show the value of such an experience in making better homemakers and citizens of those who attend. Each woman who has attended camp, whether a young mother in her twenties or a grandmother of sixty, is a living example of its benefit to home, family, and community as well as to the homemaker herself.

A Carrier of Science to Farm



FARM ADVISER M. S. (Bud) Beckley cuts into the base of a tree sprayed with diesel oil—2-4-5 T solution to show that it is com-

pletely dead 5 weeks after application. Trees create competition for much needed grass and water on Santa Clara County, Calif. ranges. Tests showed a new and revolutionary method of killing these trees. Agent Beckley got some ranchers to try it out with excellent results on white oak, bay, mulberry, large poison oak and tree of heaven. The San Jose Mercury-News, Ranch-Home-Garden section ran a half page picture feature on these results. "The fine editor of this paper," writes Mr. Beckley, "cooperates to the 'nth' degree." A mimeographed sheet explaining the method was prepared to send out in answer to the many responses from the newspaper articles. "I believe that this basal spray of trees has a great place in agricultural ranch improvement," he comments.

Do Consumers Read Food News Columns?

DO urban homemakers read newspaper articles on consumer education subjects? Do they follow recommendations of specialists and agents on buying foods in season and selecting products intelligently? Do they change their practices as a result of reading an Extension newspaper column?

In Connecticut we have been asking ourselves these questions for several years.

Last year we decided to go to consumers and ask them. We found out that:

Consumers found information about plentiful foods helpful and followed guides to wise selection.

Readers learned something about food values and used more "protective foods" as a result of reading our Extension column.

Recipes given in the column were used.

A news column is a good place to introduce consumers to little-known fruits and vegetables.

We took our readership survey in the city of Norwich, Conn. Norwich is a New England "mill town" of about 25,000 population. It has several mills and factories that employ large numbers of the residents, both men and women. Since 1949 the leading newspaper of the city, the Norwich Bulletin, has printed a weekly extension column called *Spending Your Food Dollar*.

The following figures give some of the over-all results of our survey on the readership of this column:

80 percent of the population of the city read the paper.

In 57 percent of the households, someone read *Spending Your Food Dollar*.

37 percent said the column helped them in deciding to buy plentiful foods.

29 percent found selecting of fresh fruits and vegetables to be easier because of information they read in the column.

MILDRED B. SMITH
Consumer Education Specialist
Connecticut

17 percent included more fruits in their meals as a result of reading the column.

15 percent used more vegetables.

13 percent tried vegetables they had never used before.

13 percent used more eggs.

9 percent used more milk.

27 percent learned about the value in the diet of vegetables, fruits, milk, or eggs.

36 percent tried recipes given in the column.

Friday was the shopping day mentioned most often; Saturday was second.

Mail Replies Encouraging

The answers were obtained in two ways—by mail and personal interview.

First, we chose a random sample of residents by taking every thirtieth name in the city directory. A questionnaire accompanied by a letter was mailed to each name. Two months later a second letter was sent to those who had not replied.

As we expected, there was a bias in the replies mailed back. A large proportion of persons answering by mail said they read the column and found the information helpful. These encouraging replies that came in to us first gave us a rather inflated view of the effectiveness of our program. The people who took the trouble to fill out the questionnaire and mail it back represented only 18 percent of the city's households.

We received 100 completed questionnaires through the mail. In these, 81 persons said they read *Spending Your Food Dollars*; 63 were helped in deciding to buy plentiful foods; and 61 were helped

in selection. Forty used more fruits; 41, more vegetables; 32, vegetables new to them; 30, more eggs; and 23, more milk.

Doorbell Ringing

Our next job was to find out how the other 82 percent would reply to the questions. And so followed a period of "doorbell ringing." The over-all figures were based on the two sets of replies, weighted according to the population they represented.

We selected just under 100 names from our original sample, taking all those who lived along four long streets. These streets radiated from the center of the city out to and beyond the city limits. Homes ran the gamut from crowded tenements to new "ranch-type" homes.

The person interviewed, usually the homemaker, was first asked the questions on the questionnaire. After that was filled out, the interviewer often chatted for a few minutes, telling about the Extension Service and the programs available to homemakers. From the interviews we found that *Spending Your Food Dollar* was read in about 50 percent of the households; 32 percent followed advice on "plentiful"; 22 percent were helped in selection; 12 percent used more fruits; 10 percent, more vegetables; 10 percent, more eggs; and 6 percent, more milk. About a third of the homemakers had tried recipes.

The interviewers were Beatrice Escott, New London County home demonstration agent; Louise Minnum, assistant extension editor; and the writer. Since we regularly write news releases as a means of getting extension information to homemakers, we were glad of the opportunity to interview urban homemakers, many of whom had never heard of the Extension Service.

The consumer education project in Connecticut is one of the first attempts to reach urban homemakers in the State in large numbers. We felt encouraged at what seems to be the effectiveness of reaching them through a weekly newspaper column.

To Photograph an Experimental Plot

J. C. EVANS, Former Extension Editor, Maryland

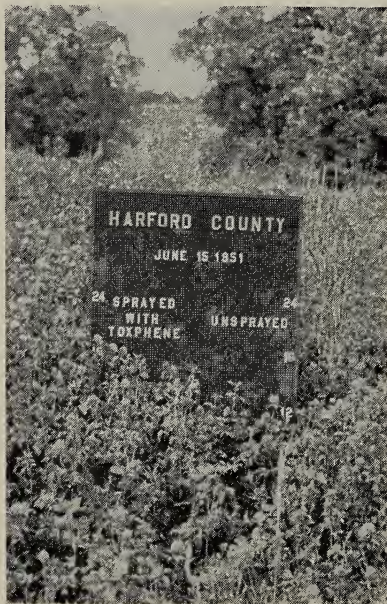
MANY times extension specialists or experiment station research workers want to take pictures of experimental plots to show various differences, such as height or size of a crop, variation in the plant population of a given area, or variation in the physical condition or maturity of a crop. Frequently these differences are very difficult to show clearly in a slide or black-and-white picture unless you use some other visual aid to make the differences obvious. This problem is especially acute in cases where you are taking a set of slides to be shown in an automatic slide projector at a show or exhibit where no one will be present to explain each picture or group of pictures.

One way to get around this problem is to prepare title or caption slides and insert them in the proper place in the series. University of Maryland extension specialists and research workers have found a better way to do the job. They are using black, felt-ribbed bulletin boards and white plastic letters like those you see hanging in building lobbies as office directories.

"We have only been experimenting with these bulletin boards for a few months," says Dr. T. S. Ronningen and Dr. A. W. Burger, of the experiment station, "but we think they have many possibilities." Here are a few helpful suggestions for making the most effective use of these boards.

1. Be careful not to drag the bulletin board through vegetation such as clover that is about ready to harvest for hay, as in the picture shown. Even though the letters are fastened fairly securely to the board, they are very easy to lose.
2. Do not get the board dirty or wet. Felt is very hard to clean, and it gets very slick if it gets wet.

3. Be sure to construct a box for the letters in which the divisions between the letters are as high as the box itself. If you don't, as you tip the box on the side to carry it, the letters get well mixed. And it is a tough job to untangle those plastic letters, because each letter has small arms on it that are inserted into the ribs on the board.
4. When you are getting ready to take a picture, set the board up facing the light with the shadow behind it, or you will not get the full benefit of the contrast between the white letters and the black board.
5. It is usually a good idea to use a string or some other object to separate the plots when size or condition of the crop does



Here is one effective way in which pertinent information can be included in a picture of any experimental plot.

not show the contrast clearly. The picture of the clover field in this article is a good example of where this should have been done, because size, color, or condition did not show the full effect of spraying for spittlebug on this field. "That was one of the things we learned by experience," say the two agronomists.

6. You'll probably have to construct some type of support for the board in windy weather. These bulletin boards are light and are easily tipped over even by a slight gust of wind. Perhaps a set of rods similar to corn-planter wire stakes with some laboratory clamps on the top would do the trick. Dr. Ronningen says you need something that is easy to push into the ground and also easy to fasten the board to.
7. If you are using small signs to compare two adjacent plots, be sure to put signs at the same height from the ground. If you don't, you or someone else may be deceived.
8. If you are using the sign with livestock in the field, be sure to keep the sign in focus. Cattle or hogs for example may decide to move about the field a bit. If you follow the livestock and forget to move the sign accordingly, it will probably be out of focus by the time you snap the shutter.
9. Vary the size of letters you use by the distance you expect to be from the board with the camera. You learn this by experience also. The letters come in four sizes: $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, 1 inch, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. They all fit each of the different size bulletin boards.

The University of Maryland folks are using these boards for both black-and-white pictures and colored slides. Occasionally the white letters look slightly blue in colored slides but it doesn't destroy the effectiveness of the picture.

The information and publications department has a full set of these bulletin boards available for any of their specialists or researchers.



On Foreign Assignment

SIX young American "grass-roots ambassadors" took a look at the world during a special International Farm Youth Exchange briefing session at Iowa State College in December before taking off on their foreign assignments in Costa Rica, Australia, and New Zealand. From left to right: Leslie S. Nichols, seat-

ed, IFYE project leader for the National 4-H Club Foundation, who traveled from Washington, D. C., to conduct the session; Sue Nichols, 20, Raleigh, N. C.; Cora Blackmore, 22, Norfolk, Va.; Bruce Ketch, 22, Bath, N. Y.; Keith Burt, 20, Concordia, Kans.; Betty Zmolek, 23, Toledo, Iowa; and Roger Baldwin (seated), 27, Kellogg, Iowa.

Come to the Fair by Way of TV

NEW HAVEN County, Conn. 4-H Club members had the opportunity to show on television what they were exhibiting at their fair last August. These 4-H members with their assistant county club agent, Mary Milner, were guests on WNHC TV's Connecticut Spotlight program the week before the fair. This was a 15-minute program on Connecticut's only television station. Jean O'Brien was mistress of ceremonies.

George Wargo of Naugatuck explained just how he was selecting his zinnias and squash and yellow

beans for exhibition. Jane Benham of Hamden put the finishing touches on the frosting of a cake; she also showed blueberry muffins and a school lunch box she had packed. Little Linda Cohen of Guilford was making a reed basket for the fair. Arnold Peterson of Orange showed how to fit his 3-month old lamb for exhibition.

This was the second 4-H Television Program presented by New Haven County 4-H members. In May six girls displayed dresses they were modeling in the County 4-H Dress Revue.

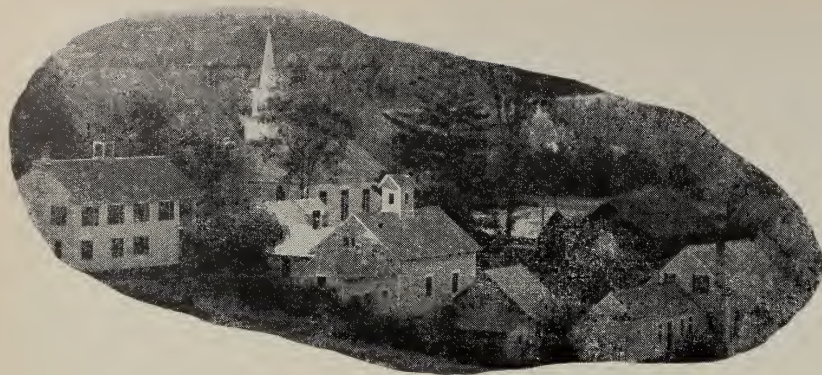
4-H Forest in Korea

The Suwon, Korea, 4-H Club with 100 members, both boys and girls, are planning to plant a demonstration forest in April 1952. Sponsored by the Kyonggi province agricultural chief and advised by the Kyonggi Province Civil Assistance Team (of United Nations), the 4-H Club members will plant 3,000 Likidamatsu pine trees. The area to be planted is within the walled city of Suwon, the scene of tragic war battles, 27 miles south of Seoul City. A method tree-planting demonstration with the 4-H Club members including provincial Governor Rhee, present, was recently conducted by Fred Shulley and Sergeant Clifford E. Wood of the Kyonggi Province Civil Assistance Team.

Once extension gets into the blood of a man, it stays there. For example 4-H Club work was started in Kyonggi Province by Lt. Col. Charles O. Anderson, commanding officer of the Seoul City Military Government team. Although Colonel Anderson was a dentist by profession he had been active in supporting 4-H Club work at home and carried the interest to Korea. Fred Shulley, former extension forester in Arkansas, went to Korea to help get the necessary food grown and harvested, and soon teamed up with Sgt. Clifford E. Wood of the Kyonggi Province Civil Assistance Team in support of the local 4-H Clubs which they were surprised to find there. Sgt. Wood was a 4-H Club boy in Nelson County, Va., who had been president of his club for 2 years.

Mr. Shulley on a recent visit home reported approximately 40,000 4-H Club members in Kyonggi Province. During the fall months they all united to get the crops harvested and in this way made a big contribution to their native province.

American 4-H Club members will wish them peace and good weather in the hopeful planting of a new 4-H Forest in Kyonggi Province in April.



How We Developed Better Community Relations

EULA J. NEWMAN, County Home Demonstration Agent, Laram County, Tex.

IT HAS almost become a tradition that county agricultural agents should work with men and boys, and the home demonstration agents should work with women and girls. As a result of this idea community organization has suffered because family organization was not made the basis of both county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents working together.

I used to wonder why plans did not materialize more satisfactorily with girls and mothers. After a demonstration I would go home feeling that good results would be accomplished. It might turn out that way, but too often it did not.

Then, when I realized that perhaps a year would pass without my even meeting the father, reasons for failures in the family began to appear. The county agricultural agent may have talked over the plow with the father about improved practices which never seemed to bear fruit. Perhaps the father and mother did mention

their work to each other if they dared bring it up, but because of a lack of knowledge of the subject the listening party probably did little more than grunt or lift an eyebrow.

But let the entire family be present when either or both agents opened doors of understanding and created a desire for improvements, all family members took more interest and worked together toward that end.

All Agents At One Meeting

Since a community is composed of nothing more than a few or many families, this same procedure can be used for developing and maintaining better community relations. Let me tell how we accomplished this in Lamar County, Tex. We have in our county the county agricultural agent and his assistant and the county home demonstration agent and an assistant. The four of us would go into a com-

munity where all of the families had been invited to attend demonstrations. If facilities permitted, the two assistant agents took the boys and girls into one of the rooms and trained them in their demonstrations which later would be presented to the general assembly.

Meanwhile, the agricultural agent and I gave our demonstrations to all of the adults assembled in the community auditorium. Both demonstrations were on nutrition, his on nutrition of livestock feeds and mine on human nutrition with emphasis on grains. During the process I mixed and baked some doughnuts and had them ready to serve hot to the entire group following the demonstrations put on by the boys and girls. Each of us found the entire group interested in the entire program.

When the assistant home demonstration agent showed a simple and accurate way of measuring a hemline, the men showed evident interest. The reason was made apparent when some of them confessed that they were often drafted into such a job at home. The women revealed an interest in the assistant county agricultural agent's demonstration on elements present or needed in the soil and how they may be added.

Draws Community Together

As the members of the family are drawn together, so the families of the community are drawn together. Reports from the Rural Neighborhood Improvement Contest show how community dreams have come true. Community centers have been made more attractive and comfortable. Wasteland has been turned into baseball fields, and brush has been cleaned from the woods to make picnic grounds. Roads have been widened and straightened. Drinking water on a community scale has been tested and treated. Road signs in the community guide the stranger to his destination and rural mail boxes have names on them that can be easily seen.

Frankness compels me to admit that most of the 24 communities in our county organized themselves

for the purpose of retaining their school buildings in the community rather than having them moved to points of school consolidation. A generous county school board permitted the buildings to stay in their original locations provided the people would use them for community purposes. To be sure, some communities have made wonderful use of them, while others let them stand merely as a reminder of the "good old days." Twelve of the communities are in the Rural Neighborhood Improvement Contest program.

Many hours of experience have resulted from these group activities. There was the time when Tigertown was the host to 2,500 people after they completed their community park from a hillside of trees, stumps, gullies, and rocks.

Then, there was the night when five communities came together at Roxton and were entertained by the Paris Municipal Band with inspirational music followed by a stimulating address by the pastor of the local Methodist Church.

Again, there was the feeding of the 2,000 who gathered one night to help Ambia celebrate a newly completed farm-to-market road brought about through community action. A similar occasion was celebrated at Biardstown when four communities expressed appreciation for an all-weather road.

But the climax to these mountain-top experiences came when the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce invited 93 of these community leaders to be its guests at the annual program. Seeing them stand as they were introduced to the crowd of 900 in recognition for their community service was enough to make any leader's heart swell with pride.

Getting together in small or large community groups on hot nights and cold, the people are not only learning how to solve local problems, but are exercising the full sacredness of freedom to think for themselves, work out their own needs, and get the job in doing it.

Cooperation then exceeds competition. Then people are ready to call it "our community."

Programs Based on Local Action

T. T. MARTIN
State 4-H Club Agent
Missouri

ONE of the first jobs to be done in developing a challenging 4-H Club program is to help the local people set up their own program. One way to start this is by mapping the community.

Successful club experience has shown that local leadership is a part of neighborhood and community resources. Well-qualified persons are usually available to head up the local leadership jobs where there is a recognized public need.

A recent study made by the General Education Board in North Carolina brought out that the face-to-face contact is an important base for analyzing rural life. New ideas tend to "click" when introduced with respect to the local situation, rather than when handed down from above. When changes seem to "snowball" they are related to long acquaintance and repetition of usual contacts. In short this study showed that acceptance of plans depend on the preparation of the people—upon their understanding and participation.

Before the local groups start mapping the community as a basis to program building, the thinking of those, who are to cooperate, may be integrated by considering together the main aspects of a community. The local people can begin by establishing desirable neighborhood tasks to be done and analyzing the needs and functions as they see them. Township lines are artificial—they cross life friendships, local planning, and accustomed action. The neighborhood usually is the right local unit to work with and through, if it is not too small.

A county meeting may be held under the guidance of the county agent or other local person to map communities and neighborhoods. First, each over-all community, as a basic unit, should be designated with every locality represented. Then, local neighborhoods can be drawn within each community by the local people. Finally, the names of well-known communities and neighborhoods can be written on the map, if more than one community is involved.

Administrators and extension agents have long applied these principles in practical situations with success. They have found that the most successful leaders generally are selected by the local people after the specific responsibilities of the leaders and needs of the local community are examined. It is also true that the kind of person chosen will often depend on the philosophy of those in charge. Untrained groups do not always select, off-hand, the best local leaders, but they generally do know and will select one acceptable to the local people. When leaders need replacing because of lack of interest or lack of time or ability, the wisdom of local selection is again evident.

When program planning and leader selection are a function of a truly socialized local group, then the 4-H Club will truly represent the interests of the families and receive their cooperation. When all the clubs in a county have this local base, then development of a truly county 4-H program and needed leadership will be easy. It will succeed to the extent that it is a people's movement.

Homemakers Study Themselves

ELAINE M. SKUCIUS, National 4-H Fellow 1951-52

Miss Skucius has a twofold interest in the survey she has described here. As a Nebraska home demonstration agent in Dawson County for 4 years, she appreciates the value of such data to the extension agents. As the daughter of one of the local leaders who were trained to take the survey, she had a personal view of what it meant to the farm women.

DO YOU know the real interests and problems of homemakers in your county? Do you know how many people in the county have had contact with the extension program and the way in which homemakers prefer to receive extension information?

In Thayer County, Nebr., the program-planning committee and the extension agents will be able to do a better planning job because they have this information plus much more as the result of a recent survey in the county.

The survey was made because the program-planning committee of the home extension council and the Home Extension Agent Maude Mathews thought that certain needs in the county were not being met by the home extension program. There seemed to be a difference of opinion between what some members of the planning committee felt were basic needs of the homemakers and the kind of program asked for by the entire county council.

When the group decided that a survey might give them a more representative picture of the entire group, they decided to see if home visits could be used in making the survey. Miss Mathews and another member of the program committee tried the method and came back with an enthusiastic report. This was the go-ahead signal to the group. The next step was to plan the objectives which they hoped to accomplish. These were the goals they set:

1. To become better acquainted with more homemakers.

2. To help homemakers become acquainted with home extension work.
3. To learn homemakers' opinion on a few basic needs in family living.
4. To obtain additional information to serve as a basis for planning home extension programs.

The planning committee then met with Dr. Gladys Gallup, Division of Field Studies and Training, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., and members of the Nebraska State home extension staff. The questionnaire was worked out and plans were made for conducting the survey.

Obviously not all the homes in the county could be visited, so a sample, which included a total of 215 farm and town homes, was drawn. The 111 farm homes were chosen by selecting 7 families liv-

ing in the same sections in each precinct in the county; 104 town homes were chosen by selecting 10 women in each town from an alphabetized list of names from the tax assessor's records. In towns of 100 population every tenth name was chosen; in towns of 1,000 every hundredth name was used.

The agents felt that if they could train local leaders to make the interviews the leaders would take a greater interest in planning programs. A committee of 20 persons, including the planning committee and a few other leaders, were trained to do the interviewing.

Miss Mathews reports that a great deal was accomplished through the use of the leaders. It broadened the thinking of all taking part and brought out the importance of long-time planning. It was also helpful to the homemakers who were visited to know that there was a group of women who were interested enough in their program to devote some time in getting acquainted and discussing problems common to most homemakers.

When the results of the survey
(Continued on page 62)



The Thayer County extension staff: Shirley McDermet, office secretary; Maude Mathews, home agent; and Victor McClure, agricultural agent; review the list of homes in the county to be visited during the survey.

Time Out for Study

E. D. WALKER, Extension Conservationist, University of Illinois

A SIX MONTHS' sabbatical leave granted for travel in a number of the States to study methods of carrying on the program of soil and water conservation proved a novel and most interesting experience. I wanted especially to (1) take a broad look at soil-conservation problems and programs in different areas, (2) pick up new ideas in soil conservation education, (3) see how soil conservation districts are functioning, (4) view at first hand pertinent developments in research, and (5) find out how flood control projects operate most effectively.

A definite itinerary for the period was worked out and specific dates were made in advance with the key people in the field of soil conservation in each of the States visited. These people included extension workers and other college staff members, soil conservationists, district directors, and other farmers and ranchers. This method proved to be very helpful in contacting the desired persons.

The tour of over 19,000 miles was made in my own automobile, and my wife accompanied me. The route covered the Southwest, the South, the Midwest, and portions of the East and New England. Definite contacts and observations were made in 31 States and the District of Columbia. I visited 18 land-grant colleges, a like number of experiment stations, and inspected field work on many farms and ranches. In addition I traveled in nine States of Mexico and three eastern provinces of Canada.

As a result my observations covered a wide range of conditions. Among the more important conclusions are the following:

1. The development which stands out in the field of soil and water conservation and management is the decided trend toward the seeding of more grass and improvement of the present acreage of grassland. This trend is most striking in the



Contour strip cropping in Minnesota saves soil and makes a striking air photo.

old cotton South where research in the past 15 years has given farmers some 20 additional legumes and grasses which were not in general use prior to that time. But the movement is also quite apparent in the arid Southwest, throughout the Midwest and in the Eastern States. Even in eastern Canada where 50 percent of the cropland is now in hay and pasture I was told, "We need more grassland."

2. Farm leaders and professional workers alike recognize the need for greater educational effort in the campaign to urge farmers to make the best use of our soil and water resources. This point was stressed in Mexico and Canada as well as in the United States. Many variations of the tried and true methods—lectures, demonstrations, field days, contests, charts, slides, motion pictures, publicity—are being used effectively. In half or more of the States visited very real progress is being made in the teaching of conservation in the elementary and secondary schools. Excellent materials for use in the schools have

been and are being developed. Conservation work with 4-H Clubs continues to lag in most States as does also the program for giving women the conservation story. The progress being made in both these areas is small in proportion to the total job that needs to be done. A more intensive effort is needed in both fields.

3. Soil conservation districts are operating most effectively where the farmer directors or supervisors take the lead in the program and seek and secure cooperation and assistance from all available sources including Federal and State agencies, schools, churches, civic groups, and other organizations. The Extension Service, which has a large responsibility for soil and water conservation, varies widely in the discharge of this function in relation to the soil-conservation districts. But a Mississippi county agent outlined his view when he said, "I helped organize a soil-conservation district because I thought it was good for the county."

(Continued on page 70)

EXTENSION SERVICE has a long record of working with various kinds of groups, organizations, and volunteer leaders. The same is true of various other agencies, public and private.

Methods of group work have improved with increased experience, research, and greater demands. During recent years considerable attention has been given to the idea of "neighbor groups" as distinguished from "neighborhoods" in some places. Research and experience show that "neighbor groups" represent a particular type of relationship and that they have to be well understood as part of the total social organization of a county, if one is to work with people in this way effectively.

The picture on this page was one of several that were taken at four stops during a field day meeting sponsored by several soil-conservation districts on the Arthur Blaschke ranch in Texas. About 400 ranchers and farmers attended this meeting along with workers from various agencies. After the pictures were developed various clusters of people were noticed. The pictures were then greatly enlarged and examined closely. This revealed that most of the persons in the clusters which could be accurately observed were folks who belonged to one or more of the same "neighbor groups" back home where they had been working together on conservation and other activities.

unity is based upon their having common problems. But a neighbor group is more than a group of all families who have a similar problem or other characteristics. There may be several neighbor groups concerned with a given problem or in a single drainage area, for example.

Indirect leadership is an important factor. Almost invariably informal groups, such as "neighbor groups," have one or two key persons or "leaders" whom the others in the group respect and follow. In many cases, a group will more or less center around this key person or family. These "leaders" may or may not be the best farmers; *its their influence that counts.*

They are not called "leaders" by

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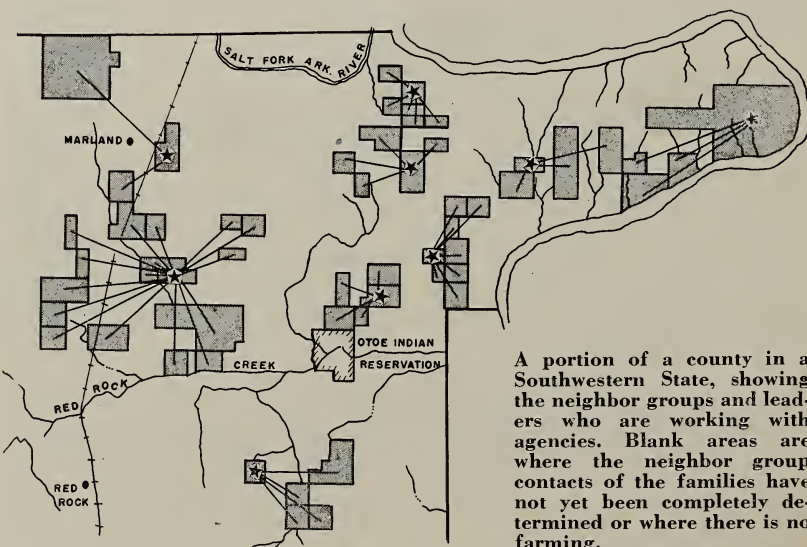


The clusters at this tour stop were sharply differentiated. The lone figure in center foreground either has not found his usual companions or was on the tour all by himself. (Photo by Soil Conservation Service.)

What Is a Neighbor Group?

"Neighbor groups" are the small groups in which people associate next beyond the family. They generally run from 5 to 10 families. They are not organizations, they are not neighborhoods, but friendship groups of families who neighbor together. Generally they are also alike in one or more respects, such as having the same nationality background, religion, customs, traditions, or kind and size of farm. Perhaps they moved in an area about the same time, or their children may frequently have common activities, or some of the families may be relatives.

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A portion of a county in a Southwestern State, showing the neighbor groups and leaders who are working with agencies. Blank areas are where the neighbor group contacts of the families have not yet been completely determined or where there is no farming.

Group Idea

groups by E. J. Niederfrank,
United States Department of
Agriculture.

check with," as someone has said.

Many neighbor groups are like the one comprised of 7 families in a Midwestern State. Their farms cross township lines, yet are adjacent to each other and are affected by the same slopes and streams which extend across their farms. These farmers worked together in making and carrying out balanced farming plans under the leadership and assistance of extension agents and other agencies. They matched grass waterways and terraces of adjoining farms so as to make continuous handling of water; they used the same slopes in the same way; they developed livestock enterprises; they improved their homes and worked together for community improvements. The agencies work with these farmers in the same neighbor group way on the various programs and problems the farmers are interested in.

Different From a Neighborhood

The term "neighbor group" is sometimes confused with "neighborhood." The two are not identical. The families in a neighbor group may or may not live in the same neighborhood. Some neighborhoods or small communities may have two or more neighbor groups in them as they usually include only 6 to 8 families. "Neighborhood" is a concept of geographic area, whereas "neighbor group" is a concept of friendship and personal relationships.

Neighbor groups may include families who all live adjacent to each other, especially if a geographic factor enters into their main problems or interests. Or they may include friends or relatives who live in parts of a neighborhood, community, or even in another section of the county. Some may in-

clude one or more persons who live in town, like a retired farmer or businessman who owns a farm somewhere. Thus, "neighbor group" is defined or determined, not necessarily by where people live, but according to how they neighbor.

Neighbor groups are most obvious in areas where farming is quite similar, farms are fairly close together, and the people have particular characteristics or backgrounds. They are less obvious, and the people who neighbor together are less likely to live next to each other, in areas where the families are generally different from one another as to occupation or other factors, especially such as in suburban sections and areas where there are many nonfarm people with various interests and contacts. But even in these places, the people interested in farming, or especially in a particular farm problem, will usually be found to neighbor with one another in some fashion or be willing to do so.

Various factors have changed or are changing neighborhood and community life such as improved transportation, school consolidation, shifting populations and urbanization of rural areas. Neighboring is not so much on a neighborhood basis as it used to be. Today relationships in many places are more or less fluid. Neighborhoods and communities are harder to delineate in terms of clearcut boundaries. This is one reason why the "neighbor group" idea is a pretty good concept. It puts the emphasis on relationships. And these in comparison to area, are what we have to go by more today in working with people.

Nor is a particular neighbor group the only grouping within which people live and function. Different families may neighbor together for different activities. They also attend churches; they are in school districts; they belong to county farm organizations and to community civic groups, they may be served by various markets, feed dealers, newspapers, and other services, and they may trade in several different towns or nearby cities. In most counties there are also various economic and occupational group-

ings. Then there are locality groupings such as the township, the county, the "valley," and the like.

Besides various kinds of organization and groups, there are also different types of leaders who may influence families in addition to neighbor group leaders. "Opinion leaders," such as a banker, local newspaper editor, feed dealer, farmer, or co-op manager often play important parts in community leadership. Other professional leaders, such as a school superintendent, and especially church pastors, exert significant leadership roles in many rural areas. Local government or political leaders also exercise important informal leadership in various localities.

Informality and Other Ideas Back of Neighbor Groups

In a "neighbor group," ideas are stripped of fancy trappings and discussed, analyzed, revised. Here is where the folks get more feeling that a program or activity is their own, which is a first essential to effective participation. Here is where new ideas and practices are made to fit local situations—where the new ideas become a part of the group's way of thinking and doing.

One force back of the influence of neighbor groups is the pressure of "group approval," which is one of the most powerful of all motivations. Tendency to follow the leader is a part of this. Another factor is that there is ease of communication between group members, due to their feeling alike and to their associations with one another.

The "neighbor group" idea embodies family and community approaches, which are highly important in bringing about changes in attitudes and practices. We know from experience that farms and ranches are run by families—not by the man alone. The farm woman generally has a lot to do with making farm business decisions and putting plans into operation when they are sound and should be started. The "neighbor group" idea facilitates the family approach and

(Continued on page 70)

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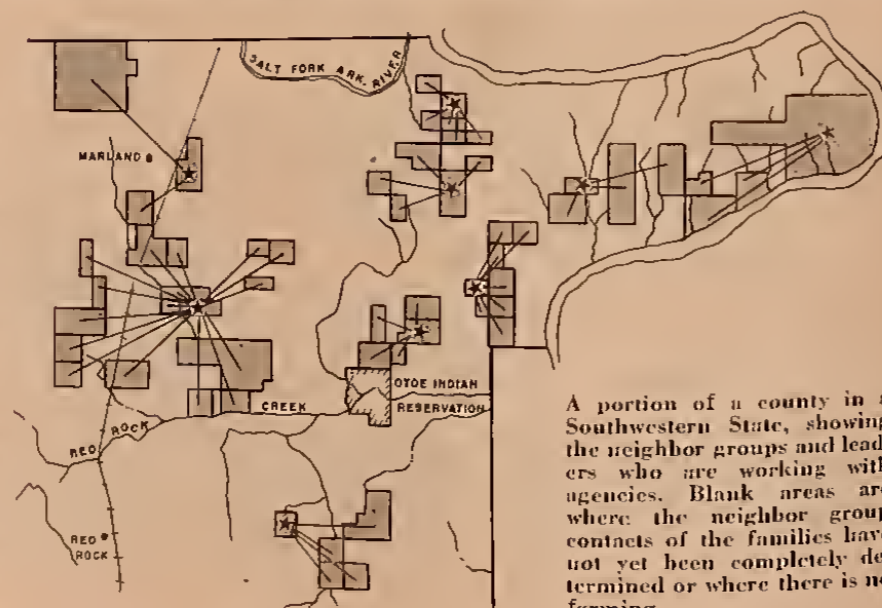
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The Neighbor Group Idea

First of two articles on neighbor groups by E. J. Niederfrank, extension rural sociologist, United States Department of Agriculture.

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(Continued on page 70)

Let's Talk About Books!

MARGARET C. SCOGGIN

Adult Moderator, "Young Book Reviewers," WMCA

READING can be one of the most pleasurable and profitable occupations in life but many young people will never discover that fact unless books are made interesting and entertaining to them. One method of giving zest to reading is group reviewing of books all have read and are willing to discuss freely and frankly.

Every Saturday morning from 11:30 a.m. to noon New York City's teen-agers have a chance to air—literally as well as figuratively—their opinion about books written for their interest, pleasure, and information. The program is WMCA's "Young Book Reviewers," open to any teen-ager over 12 years of age who has read the book for the week's review and wants to take part. It has been successful in encouraging young people to read voluntarily, giving them a chance to say what they think of what they read, and showing that discussion of books is fun.

The list of books to be reviewed is made up for 2 or 3 months in advance and sent out to schools, libraries, clubs, and any individuals who write in for it. The titles come from young people's own suggestions, from librarians' and teachers' curiosity about the appeal of certain classics, near-classics, best sellers, and nonfiction books, from publishers' requests for comments on their own publications. There is always an attempt to balance older and newer books, younger and older age interests. In the course of 3 months, a list may include a play, a nineteenth century novel, a girls' story, a best seller, a true account by an explorer or scientist, a book of folk songs, a collection of poetry, or a comparison of a book with a recent motion picture made from it.

Note that this is not a school reading list but a sampling of all kinds of books which young people may or may not find of their own

accord. Since there is such variety, the young people are told that every critic has two responsibilities: first he must read a book to decide whether or not *he* likes it and *why*; then he must decide whether, in spite of his personal reactions, the book has value and appeal for any group of readers and *why*. This is the beginning of critical judgment, so important in a democracy—judgment of one's own likes, and understanding as well as tolerance for the likes of others.

The plan for the broadcast is simple and informal. There is no script. The moderator introduces the guest if there is one. One of the reviewers volunteers to describe the book under review for the benefit of listeners who have not read it. The discussion follows with everyone telling what he liked and did not like in the book and *why*. Finally two of the reviewers sum up the points made pro and con. From beginning to end the program is unrehearsed and spontaneous, and, above all, fun to take part in. Its value to the young people is that each one realizes that his opinion counts, and by giving his opinion he is encouraged to listen critically to the opinions of others. There can be no passive acceptance of books among such a group.

A program of this sort can easily be set up with any group in any part of the country. Where there is a local radio station or a school public address system, it can be broadcast. Or the program can be taped on a tape recorder and then later broadcast or used in club or school meetings. When it is used again, it stimulates other young people to read and talk about what they read.

The main point is that the books discussed must actually include the voluntary reading of teen-agers themselves as well as some of the classics and more substantial fare

read usually only under school compulsion. The discussion can never be well-rounded and conclusive. It does not try to settle the place of books or a specific book in the history of literature. It is a device for stimulating interest in books and reading. It sets a value upon honest opinion, gives young people practice in handling ideas, lets them measure their judgment with that of other young people and adults, brings groups of different reading backgrounds together for the exchange of criticism, and most important of all, proves that reading and talking about books is *fun*. Aside from the value to teen-agers themselves, such discussions are enlightening, entertaining, and reassuring to adults who are prone to despair of the younger generation without ever listening to it.

The "Young Book Reviewers" programs are recorded on tape for use by schools, young people's clubs, and other educational institutions and groups. A sample 30-minute program may be obtained, or a series of 13 subscribed for from Educational Department, WMCA, 1657 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Homemakers Study Themselves

(Continued from page 58)

were tabulated the planning committee had a pretty good picture of the county situation. They had information on homemakers' problems, jobs which seem difficult to homemakers and whether or not they want information to help them; also methods by which homemakers prefer to get the information, and what new equipment they plan to buy and what help the homemakers have received from Extension.

The final value of the survey lies in the use made of it in planning future programs and in carrying out the program. The facts will be used not only by the home demonstration agent but by Agricultural Agent Victor McClure as well. The planning committee helped gather the information which will surely give new light to future planning.

Forestry Training Camps for Farm Youth



Boys learn how to scale logs and get practical instruction in many other subjects at forestry training schools.

STATE extension services in the eastern half of the country have organized, supervised, or assisted other agencies in conducting forestry camps for 4-H Club members, Future Farmers of America, and other farm youth. These camps were entirely forestry camps or a major portion of the program was in this field.

Forestry training camps have been enthusiastically received by farm youth. The work at these camps and in the woods was closely scheduled and was rather strenuous at times, but there was relaxation such as ball games, swimming, or forestry movies. The boys showed keen interest, and in the brief period of several days to a week learned a great deal about protection, forest management, and timber utilization. Many of the boys attending these camps returned home to practice forestry in their home woods and to serve as forestry leaders in their communities. Some have regarded forestry as a means of making money, and a few have decided to study forestry and enter the profession as a life's work. There is no yardstick that can measure the benefits derived from these camps. State extension services and forestry departments have regarded them as an effective

means of interesting farm youth in forestry.

The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association was one of the first to encourage forestry camps and has appraised them very highly. In fact, the pulpwood industry generally has sponsored a majority of the camps. Several forestry associations, sawmills, a cartridge concern, a telephone company, and others in the merchandising business have given generous support to forestry camps, or have otherwise stimulated interest in 4-H forestry activities.

During the past several years forestry training camps have increased rapidly in number and in attendance. Extension foresters have reported that 24 camps were held during the past summer with an attendance of 2,025 farm boys. The boys appreciated the opportunity of spending a few big days in camp, meeting foresters, industry representatives, agricultural workers, and learning how to grow timber as a crop. It was a great experience that opened up new vistas in the lives of many of them. It is hoped that continued support will permit many more farm boys to participate in this very worthy phase of the extension forestry program.

An example of some of the splendid work being carried on in 4-H forestry training camps comes from the State of Georgia. Three forestry camps are held each year and training is received in good forestry practices—from setting out the trees to reaping income from timber crops and naval stores. Foresters from the Extension Service and the State Department of Forestry, as well as from commercial organizations, join hands in instructing the club members on proper planting, thinning, fire control, selective cutting and many other things. In addition to the intensive forestry

training given to 237 outstanding club members from over the State, Director Walter Brown has pointed out that last year 3,529 boys and girls enrolled in forestry projects that included work on 16,601 acres. In cooperation with the five pulp and paper mills in the South, these young people annually set out approximately 1,000,000 pine seedlings each year.

In commenting on the value of the three forestry camps sponsored by a pulp and paper company, a telephone company and the American Turpentine Farmers Association, W. A. Sutton, State 4-H Club leader has said:

"The 4-H Club Forestry Camps have served as one of the most vital forces to emphasize the importance of forestry in the State of Georgia. This work has greatly strengthened our 4-H Club program and has made forestry a major 4-H project. The challenge to 4-H Club members in attendance at these camps is to receive all the information and inspiration possible and to pass it on to the other 4-H Club members."

● EARL MAHARG whose services to the dairy industry of Los Angeles County, Calif., resulted in his receiving a U.S.D.A. Superior Service award this year, retired recently, with the title of associate agriculturist emeritus. In charge of livestock work for the past 7 years in Los Angeles County, he is also well known for his work with the county cow-testing association, and his research work in feeding hogs.

● COLORADO 4-H Club members have planted samples of different types of grasses to see for themselves how well different species do in their area. This is a part of the increased emphasis on grasslands in the extension program.

The Job of the County Agent

*Fifth in a series which started in November
with a symposium by four New York specialists.*

BOTH NEARSIGHTED AND FARSIGHTED

Anson Call, Jr.

*County Agricultural Agent
Brigham City, Utah*

THE county agent must have a vision of the future and yet not overlook or forget the problems of the day. It would be easy for an individual to look into the future and work entirely on some long-time goal and forget the problems that are affecting the public at present. Time must be devoted to both and emphasis be placed from day to day where he feels it is needed most.

The county agent must be able to bring in specialists, who are trained along certain lines, to put over points which the agent himself is unable to put over as effectively as the specialist can. It is true that the county agent is supposed to be fairly well trained in a great many fields but he must also remember that science is contributing new material to the different fields all the time and it is impossible for him to keep up on all these things. It is no disgrace if he brings in these specialists to emphasize this particular point.

The job of the county agent is somewhat different from other jobs, and he must not become discouraged if some things seem to fail which he feels are essential. He must keep in mind that he is working with people and he can only work with them as far as they are educated along that particular line. If a job seems to fail at the moment, he must not become discouraged but must start from the bottom and hold his head high with a determination that the problem will be completed if it will serve the people with whom he is working. Before this is done he must be sure that the problem he is working on

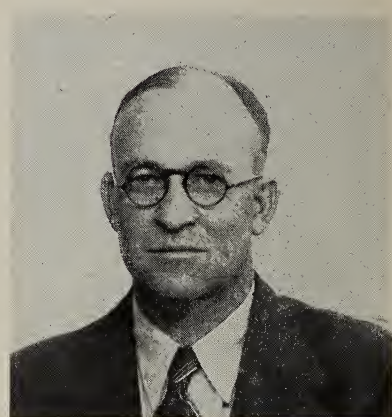
is fundamental and will help solve the problems of the people.

The county agents must be open-minded and be looking for good suggestions, but must make sure that they are not the crackpot ideas of some individual who would like to promote his personal aims.

A county agent must live a life, in private as well as in public, which is beyond reproach. This is where, I think, the 24-hour job hits very definitely. In our work with young people we do not know who is watching us, and very often the county agent is the ideal of a farm boy who is starting out in 4-H Club work. If the agent gives guidance to this boy and then the boy sees the county agent off the job, he can see that he is still living up to the teaching which he gave in order for the boy to succeed. This, too, is where we are working our 24 hours a day.

The county agent must be sympathetic to folks who are in need economically, socially, physically, morally, and spiritually. He may be called upon by many of his clientele for advice on subjects that may be different from agricultural production or marketing or other things pertaining to the farm, but he should be able to help with these problems, knowing the circumstances of the people involved. I think the county agent should be well acquainted with the entire population of his county, so that he will be able to meet people and know their background and help them to make a decision which sometimes they hesitate to make themselves.

The county agent must be honest with himself and with the people with whom he is working. His word must be kept to the letter and he must not make appointments that he feels he cannot fulfill. Probably to sum the whole thing up, the county agent in the county is the



Anson Call

tool of the agricultural college to promote education within the county and keep people up to date in many different fields.

The county agent should work with groups as much as possible but then he must not forget individual problems that come up and must give them careful consideration.

BACKGROUND REMARKS

H. J. CAREW,

*Extension Specialist
in Vegetable Crops, New York*

CONCERNING your recent article "The specialist Looks to the County Agent" (November REVIEW), I believe your readers might be interested in more of the background behind this debate.

Back in the early days of Extension the county agricultural agent was concerned largely with assisting farmers in the production and marketing of various agricultural products; milk, eggs, apples, potatoes, and other commodities—in other words, teaching farmers new and improved practices usually developed by our own agricultural experiment station.

As the Extension Service broadened and enlarged, however, it became possible to serve rural people in additional ways. They requested—and the agent supplied—information and assistance on an increasingly wider variety of topics.

Today, our agents not only treat seeds, dehorn live stock, and cull hens, but also assist farmers with their income tax, selective service, and health problems, to say nothing of leading older rural youth programs and conducting public forums.

No one questions the value of any or all of these programs or forms of assistance. But no one can deny they make life slightly more complex for the agent. With recent developments in all fields, he finds it increasingly difficult to keep abreast, much less ahead of his constituents.

With but 24 hours in a day, the agent and his staff have had to weigh the relative importance of each of these programs in order to decide how to devote their limited time. The scales are being read differently in many counties. It has become apparent to some people that many recently acquired programs and services, which might be classified as moral or social uplift in function, are now being handled at the expense of assisting farmers with their co-called "business" problems. This is most regrettable to some extension specialists. An equal number of others, I am told, disagree. The side you choose depends on your idea of just what a county agricultural agent is supposed to do.

We might have asked the agents themselves who have divergent and interesting views on this subject. It was, however, discussed in the restricted form, "From Our Viewpoint as Extension Specialists, What is the Job of the County Agricultural Agent?"

In other words, Professors Cunningham and Johnson believed that "the primary job of the county agent is to assist farmers with the production and marketing of their agricultural products, or to put it another way, their business problems." Professors Braithwaite and Hanks disagreed.

Support for the 4-H Program

ROBERT B. EWING, County Club Agent, Plymouth County, Mass.

THE 4-H organization in our county is much more than the 1,000 boys and girls plus 135 local leaders. It includes the 9 loyal and hard-working members of the 4-H advisory council and the 117 members of local town committees. And of course it also includes the cooperating agencies and the parents.

All must have a working knowledge of the 4-H Clubs and their program; all must have team spirit in working together for the benefit of young people. Everyone needs to "keep his eye on the ball," and the ball is not chickens, dresses, sheep, cows, cans, and meals, but is the young 4-H Club member learning to live and work in our world.

The advisory council meets six times a year and is very helpful to the county club agents in formulating policies. It helps in working out a yearly program and helps fit 4-H activities to local conditions within Plymouth County. The chairman of the council attends the annual meeting of the Trustees, Plymouth County Aid to Agriculture, when the agents give their annual report to the county. Members of the 4-H council have talked to adult groups throughout the country, visited 4-H Clubs, attended 4-H Club special activities, and in general have strengthened the organization and given it prestige.

The next step is the town committee which has proved a sound foundation on which to build a community 4-H program. Our towns are similar to townships in other States and are the governing unit within the county. The function of the committee is to coordinate the activities and programs of local clubs, sponsor the local program, obtain leaders and enroll club members, and in general make the 4-H Club program click.

In Plymouth County, which has 26 towns and 1 city, there are now

12 town committees. The club agents meet with each of the committees at least once a year and visit the chairman often.

The value of these committees is illustrated by that of East Middleboro. It was organized when a leader who had had some experience with such committees in other towns invited the agent and parents to her home. At the time of the organization there was one girls' club in the town with a membership of 13. The following spring and summer, clubs were organized in dairy, canning, garden, poultry, clothing, and foods, with a leader for each club and a membership of 49. A 4-H orchestra was organized and is growing.

In order that everyone might know something about 4-H Club work, the town committee first called a community meeting in an abandoned one-room schoolhouse. About 80 people were there and heard and saw the local girls' club take part in the program. They also heard an older club member from a nearby town tell of his experiences. They sang songs and had refreshments.

That was only the beginning. Every month a jamboree for all 4-H Club members was held. Each club took its turn at being in charge of the program. About the middle of the summer, the schoolhouse was given to the town committee to use as a 4-H clubhouse. A food sale was held to raise money to fix it up. Then the men leaders and fathers got together in the evening to make benches. An American flag was presented to the 4-H Club members by one of the local organizations. In the fall an exhibit of 4-H Club work was held. As one old-timer said, "Ain't been nothing like this happen around here for the last 50 years." In doing something for the young people this committee is doing for adults as well.

Across the Sea a Friendship Tie Is Woven

ORINNE JOHNSON

Assistant Extension Editor, University of Kentucky



Klara Heilein

BETWEEN homemakers of Kentucky and Germany, a strong tie of friendship was woven the past year with the arrival in the Bluegrass of Klara Heilein of Bavaria, truly an ambassador of good will.

Kentucky homemakers started weaving that tie 2 years ago, when they decided to invite a guest from Germany for a 6-month visit. She would live in their homes as a member of the family, join in their activities, and in fact, become a part of the community. In this small way, an understanding of two different peoples would be encouraged. It was with enthusiasm that the homemakers voted the funds to carry out the plan in cooperation with the National government.

Although the original idea was to have a homemaker as their guest, that plan was found to be impractical. Instead, in early April of last year, came Miss Heilein, or Klara (as we all soon learned to call her), a teacher of home economics. Alert, yet with an appealing shyness, her eyes alight with eagerness for every new adventure, she fitted in with every group.

In order that Klara might see how rural Americans in Kentucky live, work and play, it was arranged by Myrtle Weldon, State leader of home demonstration work, and the Kentucky Federation of Homemakers, to have their guest spend from 2 to 4 weeks in six different homes. They were on small and large farms, in the coal mining area, the Bluegrass, and the agricultural western part of the State. Some families had children, others had none. Without exception, before Klara's visit was over, every family

had requested that she be permitted to stay for a longer time.

"I saw you in your homes with your family and friends, and in the community and in your club work," Klara wrote the homemakers after her return. "Now I know how you feel for the people from a strange country. First I was a little anxious how you will meet me, a girl from Germany. The World War II was not a long time ago, but nobody said a bad word for me. Everybody was a friend to me, and I was so thankful for this. We didn't want the war, you didn't want the war. You found the right way. You met a girl from Germany with friendship, with love."

Immediately on arrival, Klara traveled by car with Miss Weldon and others to attend 12 district meetings of homemakers throughout the State. About this Klara wrote: "I could not understand and speak your language, but it was so easy to understand everybody after a short time. It was not the language I learned to understand. I learned to read the friendly and helpful faces. This was my first impression of the strange country across the ocean, where I was happy 6 months, and where I didn't feel like a stranger."

As a family member, Klara helped can beans, pick berries, sew, pasteurize milk, pick peas for the locker, or whatever the task at hand. "She saw things to do as soon as we did," said one hostess.

There was little that Klara was not given an opportunity to see or do from both an educational and entertainment standpoint. Naturally the programs carried on by

homemakers and 4-H Clubs were of first interest, but she also visited schools and colleges, county and State fairs, general and specialized farms of all kinds, agricultural field days, manufacturing plants, church services of different denominations, bakeries, public utilities, civic club luncheon, printing plants, or whatever the community had to offer.

Meetings attended varied from weddings and funerals to State 4-H Club week and a national meeting of rural women.

Natural beauties of the area and special points of interest were seen, such as Lincoln's home, Mammoth Cave, the Great Smokies, the Hermitage, and the Laurel Festival. But perhaps nothing was enjoyed more by Klara than a family picnic.

"In Europe, they think American families don't have the right family life, and the husband, wife, and children go their separate ways. That is not true. I can see them all go in one car, and often for family picnics." She censured the movies severely for the erroneous picture given of family life in America.

A teacher of home economics for 5 months of the year, and a home advisor for the remainder, Klara told us she traveled by bicycle to visit each of her 142 communities once or twice a year. In her home State of Bavaria, there is no formal organization of women, for after past experiences, they shy away from being a "member." Instead, Klara visits the women individually, or they gather in the largest kitchen in a community where she gives a demonstration. Community meet-

ings on poultry, gardening, and home furnishings are held at night and are attended in winter by both men and women. The men are particularly interested in kitchen planning, often carrying out the ideas shown to them through models.

Klara expressed great admiration for Kentucky's smaller compact kitchens, with work centers of sink, stove, and cabinets. That every home where she was a guest had such conveniences as a washing machine, refrigerator, and modern range impressed her greatly. As a result of mechanization, women in America have more time for their children and community affairs, Klara pointed out, while in Germany, where farms are small and handwork must be done, the days are filled with manual labor.

She loved America with its convenient homes, the freedom women enjoyed, the honesty of people generally as indicated by the newspapers and nickels left on the corner and the unlocked doors, their respect for traffic signals, and their readiness to aid their next-door neighbor or the unfortunate of the Nation. "United States is like one big family," she said again and again.

On the other hand, Klara could not help but note the waste of land, resources, and even food. Too many weeds, too rich food, and people in too big a hurry were just criticisms.

To ask any homemaker who knew Klara if the 6-month project had been worthwhile, the reply was definitely in the affirmative. "She was an excellent ambassador, and her pleasing personality created good will among all groups," said a home agent.

The feeling of all might be expressed in the words of her first hostess, Mrs. F. O. Moore of Bell County: "Klara's spirit of cooperation, her friendly attitude and just being Klara has changed our idea of the German people." Another wrote, "We can feel more neighborly with the German people after knowing Klara." Still another said, "Her visit has shown us that if the common people of two countries know each other well, there cannot

help but be better understanding between them."

"I am sure Kentucky homemakers have never undertaken a project that has given them a greater and more lasting feeling of satisfaction," said Miss Weldon.

As for Klara, she called the exchange program the "best in the world. It helps much more in understanding to say, 'I lived with the people and it is that way,' than all the radios, movies, newspapers and magazines. Even if only a few people can come to your country, it helps more than you think.

"In each family I felt at home the first minute. I didn't feel I am a stranger from a foreign country. Living in a family, one sees the real life. When one is a guest for 1 or 2 days, you see the 'Sunday face.' But when you live in a home, you see how the people really are—how they work together and treat the children and each other."

In expressing her appreciation of the homemakers of Kentucky, Klara said, "I want to thank everyone who made it possible that I come, and that I could live with families in their homes. Now I have another impression of America and American people. We all want the same things—a nice family, a nice home, and peace. German people don't want war any more than do American people."

That the investment made by the homemakers is paying dividends is seen in another part of Klara's New Year's Day letter:

"I saw and learned many, many things in Kentucky, and I am rich with experiences. But I didn't learn only for myself and only for the month. I brought it back for work in the school and with the farm women. . . .

"We have a new club here in Bamberg—the American Travelers. We are 23 members. Once a month we meet and talk with our resident officer (American) about our trip and experiences, and then we make dates for the meetings where we will make a speech in high schools or for adults. One time we were invited to supper by American families, and later we attended a PTA meeting. The next meeting we had

in our school, and we were very proud to have our American guests. After a small German supper, we served . . . Lemon pie!"

Kentucky homemakers are united in hoping that Klara Heilein will again visit them one day.

Seed Tests Started

"Grow alfalfa? It can't be done in Wisconsin!"

That's what they said 30 years ago, but now the State has more than 1,818,000 acres in this prosperity crop.

Now the question is whether alfalfa seed can be grown successfully in the State. And to test that statement, a new program of research and extension was launched in northern Wisconsin this summer.

University of Wisconsin men surveyed farms where legume seed is now being successfully produced. They're finding out what these farmers are doing to get a satisfactory seed crop. Then they will study whether such methods are practical for farmers generally.

They hope, too, to organize seed producers into a local cooperative to build facilities for storing, cleaning, sizing, bagging, and marketing seed. It would also handle insecticides, fertilizer, and bees—all products that are needed for successful alfalfa seed production.

The production campaign is closely tied to a research program seeking new and better methods for seed production.

The fact that some farmers in the far north have proved that they can grow alfalfa seed gives crop experts some encouragement.

The northern regions are hitting the problem especially hard, because farmers in that area drastically need a dependable cash crop—one that protects their soil but helps out the pocketbook.

The new research and marketing program will be encouraged by the University of Wisconsin branch experiment station at Ashland and by extension agents in that area.

Dave Holt, district extension supervisor in the far north, is convinced that alfalfa seed production can be profitable for his area.

Another PCA Pays Off

ON SATURDAY, January 19, 1952, 350 people, nearly all of them farmers and their wives from Washington, Carroll, Frederick, and Montgomery Counties, Md., met in the Frederick High School Auditorium. The majority of them as members of the Frederick Production Credit Association wanted to witness the return to the Government of the last \$10,000 capital stock it held in their organization. In exchange for that check President Thomas Vandenburg of the Baltimore Production Credit Corporation gave the association a certificate stating that it had now become a fully farmer-owned association.

Association Started in 1934

Back 18 years ago, in January, 1934, the agricultural agents from those four counties with 32 farmers had met in Frederick. On that occasion they had discussed with representatives of the Production Credit Corporation a proposal for establishing an organization to make production loans in this four-county territory. At the close of that meeting those 32 farmers signed papers as incorporating directors for the Frederick Production Credit Association. When the charter was issued, the corporation provided the first capital by buying \$200,000 in stock, using Government funds to make the purchase.

The Maryland Extension Service had worked with this supervisory agency, the Production Credit Corporation, in the grouping of these four counties as a proper territory for setting up an association. The director had asked each county agent to select a reliable group of eight farmers who would be interested in establishing a new source of short-term credit. The judgment of the agents and the acute need that farmers in 1934 had for credit is shown by the fact that practically 100 percent of those invited attended the organization meeting.

The part taken by the Maryland

Extension Service in setting up the Frederick PCA was not unique. In fact, a very similar role was played all over the country in organizing more than 500 other production credit associations. Neither is the accomplishment of that association exceptional in paying back all the initial capital furnished it by the Government. Early in January 1952 the number of PCA's becoming fully farmer-owned reached 238, 68 achieving that status in the last 12 months. All the other 262 associations have greatly reduced and many nearly completed their payoff so that at this time only about \$13,000,000 remains out of the \$90,000,000 Government funds first put into them.

Three of those four agents, Henry R. Shoemaker of Frederick, L. C. Burns of Westminster, and O. W. Anderson of Rockville, still serve the same counties as in 1934; the fourth, W. D. Moore of Hagerstown, is deceased. Two of these agents were present for this eighteenth annual meeting, showing the interest they have maintained in the association and its services.

Useful to Many Agencies

Governor I. W. Duggan of the Farm Credit Administration was there to make the principal address. Mr. Vandenburg, as president, represented the Federal Land Bank as well as the PC Corporation. Hugh Mackey, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank from which PCA obtains its loan funds was also present.

Then there were State and county leaders from the Grange and the Farm Bureau. Also a Farmers Home Administration supervisor, Soil Conservation Service technician, Production and Marketing Administration committeemen, and teachers of vocational agriculture. All recognize the support given their work through the loans made by the PCA and its companion cooperative, the National Farm Loan Association of Frederick.

During its 18 years the Frederick PCA has lent a total of \$9,685,000. The secretary, J. Herbert Snyder, who has been with this organization in one capacity or another for its entire history, estimates that approximately 2,500 farm families have been served through it with one or more loans. There are now 915 members, 680 of whom obtained loans for \$2,980,000 in 1951. These 915 members own shares of stock to the value of \$207,000, behind which is \$235,000 in reserves that have been built up out of earnings.

In his address, Governor Duggan pointed to the unusual record made by the Frederick PCA in making loans to young farm families who were just getting started. Between 425 and 450 families have obtained loans from the association for their first year as independent farm operators. There are 207 of these still active members, or 30 percent of those now borrowing. One fourth of the members of the National Farm Loan Association of Frederick also come from this group who were granted helpful loans by the PCA when they started out.

Area Has an Integrated Loan Service

Some of the farmers attending and participating in this enthusiastic meeting were not borrowers from the PCA. They were members of the National Farm Loan Association of Frederick. This association handles applications for and services the loans made by the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore. It serves the same counties, uses the same offices and has the same employees as the Frederick Production Credit Association.

While the two associations offer a fully integrated service to farmers in the four counties, the assets and business of the two cooperatives are kept entirely separate.

As the operation of this coordinated one-stop service has become smooth, the volume of business of both associations has grown rapidly. Joint handling of both farm mortgage and production loans has enabled the secretary and field men to better serve more farmers.

National Awards to Extension Workers

(Continued from March Review)

County Agricultural Agents

Otto Watson Anderson, Montgomery County, Md.; H. M. Carroll, Harford County, Md.; P. Ralph Biebesheimer, Wayne County, Mich.; Blair G. Woodman, Shiawassee County, Mich.; Roland H. Abraham, Jackson County, Minn.; Wayne H. Hanson, Houston County, and Miles G. Rowe, Minn.; C. L. Barry, Adams County, Miss.; J. S. McBee, Leflore County, Miss.; Howard D. McMorrough, Monroe County, Miss.; W. R. Meredith, Panola County, Miss.; W. Y. Parker, Yalobusha County, Miss.; Q. Stewart Vail, Coahoma County, Miss.

Arnold Barber, Scotland County, Mo.; Parker Rodgers, Lafayette County, Mo.; O. V. Singleton, Benton County, Mo.; Robert F. Rasmussen, Hill County, Mont.; Lewis F. Boyden, Johnson County, Nebr.; George A. Garrison, Butler County, Nebr.; Victor B. McClure, Thayer County, Nebr.; Mark W. Menke, Elko County, Nev.; Kenneth E. Boyden, Worcester County, Mass.; Carl A. Worthley, Aroostook County, Maine; Wilbur M. Runk, Cumberland County, N. J.; Seldon S. Baker, Jr., Luna County, N. Mex.; A. R. Blanchard, Tioga County, N. Y.; William J. Clark, Rockland County, N. Y.; Ralph Gorman Palmer, Monroe County, N. Y.; Wayne A. Corpening, Haywood County, N. C.; Larry L. McLendon, Sr., Camden County, N. C.; J. T. Monroe, Cumberland County, N. C.; Joe C. Powell, Edgecombe County, N. C.; Howard M. Singletary, Haywood County, N. C.; J. B. Snipes, Chatham County, N. C.

Milton E. Leetun, Adams County, N. Dak.; George B. Simons, Griggs County, N. Dak.; George L. Brown, Vinton County, Ohio; Forest G. Hall, Hancock County, Ohio; Floyd Henderson, Noble County, Ohio; C. B. Stewart, Wood County, Ohio.

Cyrus H. Hailey, Pontotoc County, Okla.; Harry F. James, Oklahoma County, Okla.; C. L. Weatherford, Sequoyah County, Okla.; Rex Carter, Fayette County, Pa.; Henry R. Eby, Allegheny County, Pa.; E. G. Hamill, Blair County, Pa.; R. H.

McDougall, Butler County, Pa.; J. C. McComb, Orangeburg County, S. C.; Colman H. Wagner, Clark County, S. Dak.; J. C. Amos, Jefferson County, Tenn.; David B. Hendrix, Sevier County, Tenn.; Nathan Lowe, Williamson County, Tenn.; Noel N. Maddux, Monroe County, Tenn.; Thomas L. Mayes, Franklin County, Tenn.; John V. Reid, Shelby County, Tenn.; Ralph P. Ring, Lawrence County, Tenn.; Vernon W. Sims, Unicoi County, Tenn.; Sam B. Stanfill, Bedford County, Tenn. Charles Vaughn, Clay County, Tenn.; Aaron M. Walker, Weakley County, Tenn.

Marion H. Badger, Tom Green County, Tex.; Homer M. Breedlove, Donley County, Tex.; A. B. Emmons, Hopkins County, Tex.; Ernest Goule, Sherman County, Tex.; Gordon L. Hart, Liberty County, Tex.; William Roy Morgan, Henderson County, Tex.; Guy Powell, Kerr County, Tex.; Russell R. Keetch, Utah; A. G. Birdsall, Gloucester County, Va.; Homer Bryan Eller, Smyth County, Va.; Charles Ellis, Campbell County, Va.; I. Fred Stine, Frederick County, Va.; Edward Lee Wood, Amelia County, Va.

Hilmer L. Axling, Spokane County, Wash.; Clinton M. Okerstrom, Lewis County, Wash.; Brooks Daugherty, Kanawha County, W. Va.; John W. Hammer Pendleton County, W. Va.; Ernest C. Van Metre, Berkeley County, W. Va.; Charles J. McAleavy, Marathon County, Wis.; Hans G. Horne, Chippewa County, Wis.; and Vernon W. Peroutky, Winnebago County, Wis.

Home Demonstration Agents

Recognition for outstanding home and community service was recognized by the National Home Demonstration Agents Association at its annual meeting in November, when 58 home agents were cited. They are:

Central Region. Mrs. Mabel Unger Albrecht, Lincoln, Ill.; Hazel L. Graves, Mt. Carmel, Ill.; Mrs. Marie B. Bowen, Muncie, Ind.; Helen L. Johnson, New Castle, Ind.; Anna-

belle J. Dickinson, Great Bend, Kans.; Isabel N. Dodrill, Garden City, Kans.; Mrs. Grace Vander-Kolk, Spring Lake, Mich.; Julia Bartlett, Caledonia, Minn.; Bertha Doubikin, Waynesville, Mo.; Helen Morse, Harrisonville, Mo.; Eva Bute, Holdrege, Nebr.; Imogene Dean, Burton, Ohio; Mabel Spray, Mansfield, Ohio; Vera Hub, Stevens Point, Wis.

Eastern Region. Edythe M. Turner, Rockville, Md.; S. Virginia Brewster, Jamestown, N. Y.; Rachel Alice Merritt, Cooperstown, N. Y.; Katherine M. Lawler, Hathorne, Mass.; Verna M. Criss, Shillington, Pa.; Mrs. Elizabeth Lofberg Trogdon, Harrisburg, Pa.; Eva K. Bauer, Sutton, W. Va.

Western Region. Virginia E. Twitty, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mrs. Alba S. Tidwell, Grand Junction, Colo.; Mrs. Dorothy Y. Hanny, Silver City, N. Mex.; Florence Forbes, Rawlins, Wyo.; J. Hazel Zimmerman, Las Vegas, Nev.; Maud Martin, Ogden, Utah; Clementine Sittel, Hardin, Mont.; Mrs. Fern McGregor, Couperville, Wash.

Southern Region. Josie Benton, Hamburg, Ark.; Mrs. Dora S. Stubblefield, Paragould, Ark.; Elizabeth Collings, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Mary Thompson, Tuskegee, Ala.; Martha Cobb, Americus, Ga. Bernice Echols Grant, Brunswick, Ga.; Elizabeth Proctor, Warm Springs, Ga.; Priscilla L. Lytle, Leitchfield, Ky.; Mary Ellen Murray, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Mary Gardner, Jackson, Miss.; Velma Little Neely, Laurel, Miss.; Lola C. Caldwell, Columbia, La.; Mrs. Erin D. Canan, Crowley, La.; Rebecca Colwell, Edenton, N. C.; Mamie Sue Evans, Asheville, N. C.; Mrs. Agnes W. Watts, Taylorsville, N. C.; Maria Teresa Sanchez, Rio Grande, P. R.; Mrs. Lillian Robertson Livesay, Suffolk, Va.; Chilton Ryburn, Prince George, Va.; Rose Adelaide Erisman, Austin, Tex.; Mrs. Eula J. Newman, Paris, Tex.; Ruth Ramey, Richmond, Tex.; Mrs. Leola Cox Sides, Palo Pinto, Tex.; Mary Neal Alexander, Centerville, Tenn.; Margaret Louise Weeks, Cleveland, Tenn.; Mrs. Elizabeth D. Crane, Fairview, Okla.; Juanita Stevens, Shawnee, Okla.; Tillie Roesel, Bushnell, Fla.; and Vela Smith, Florence, S. C.

Time Out for Study

(Continued from page 59)

Now it is up to me to do the educational work needed to make the district program move."

4. Practical answers to pressing problems of soil and water management are being worked out at our research stations. Unfortunately, downward budget adjustments tend to fall heavier on research than on the action phases of the program. Consequently, research stations often do not have the funds which their importance justifies. Putting the research results into the hands of farmers is a challenge to extension workers in the field of soil-conservation education.

5. The effectiveness of a flood-control project appears to depend in large measure on the use by farmers of conservation measures on their land in the upper reaches of the watershed. Intensive educational effort is essential in achieving this widespread acceptance of needed conservation practices. On part of the six flood-control projects which were inspected, the educational side of the program was receiving little attention while in other cases it was being well cared for even to the extent of providing in the Little Sioux project in Iowa an assistant county extension director to handle this work.

The experiences I had while on this leave, the contacts I made along the route, and the information I secured on the various phases of soil conservation will, I am sure, be most helpful to me in carrying on my work in the years ahead. I can heartily recommend to you extension workers that, if possible, you take a sabbatical leave as a means of broadening your outlook. You will find it most enjoyable and profitable.

● **JOHN M. (Mac) MOORE**, Michigan State veteran poultryman, has been granted leave of absence, to work with Michigan Broilers, Inc., to help the new organization develop the production and marketing of poultry in the State. He will be on leave until July 1, 1952.

Grass and Weed Experts in the Making

The first Range Management Camp in the State of Washington is scheduled for June 3-7, at Camp Wooten. Each county in eastern Washington is to send two delegates. Every older 4-H Club boy is eligible. The campers will be chosen for their ability to identify grasses and weeds. Contests to determine the best young weed and grass experts are being held this spring.

Grass and weeds will be featured in the Camp program. A chance to learn more about livestock and range management, the high cost of raising weeds, and a closer acquaintance with the most serious weed pests will be offered the young men.

The camp is sponsored by the Washington Membership of the Northwest Society of Range Management and a similar range management camp held in Oregon last year.

Neighbor Group Leader

(Continued from page 61)

vice versa. For in identifying and working with neighbor groups, one is concerned with families.

Because of their peculiar characteristics, then, informal groups like "neighbor groups" do afford a most logical and natural way, but not the only way, for people to utilize the services of agencies in advancing improved farm and home practices and other community development. The Soil Conservation Service has had unusual success in working with people in this way.

They afford a good means of serving people on their own level and in terms of their own interests and relationships, in contrast to expecting them to fit into one's own organization patterns. They already exist; they run themselves; and they can lessen the amount needed of separate organization for every project. They are an aid in discovering wants and needs.

Neighbor groups have been found

to be an especially effective channel in working with families who do not readily respond to other methods or who are quite closely knit in certain respects. They are also good in cases of programs or practices which require more than the usual amount of convincing because of being tradition-bound or involved, such as conservation, changing production periods in dairying, or family nutrition. They are a way of making an indirect approach and of activating desire or motivation; or as someone has said: "Help to get a toe-hold with folks we would like to reach more."

Neighbor groups also afford a practical way by which people can work together more, which is needed today. And as a farmer recently said: "They are helping recapture neighborliness where former community contacts have been altered by changes of the time."

● Earlier this year, **LOUIS H. MARTIN**, county agent in Somerset and Wicomico Counties, Md., was awarded a citation by the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Martin is the first Negro in the Delmarva scouting area to receive such an honor. A 1914 graduate of Hampton Institute, he is the oldest county agent in the State in terms of years of service. Since 1944 Mr. Martin has served as scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop No. 220, and under his leadership the boy scouts of Princess Anne have attended summer camp each year. The citation pointed out his outstanding contribution to extension 4-H Club work.

● **Colorado State** home demonstration agent, **HELEN PROUT**, recently left for a year of graduate study at Cornell University. During her absence **MRS. CLARA ANDERSON** will act as State home agent.

● **ALEXANDER HABURCHAK**, a graduate in agronomy at Montana State College has been appointed a county agent-at-large for the Montana Extension Service and has begun work in Hill County where he will assist County Agent R. F. Rasmussen.

Science Flashes



What's in the offing on scientific research, as seen by Ernest G. Moore
Agricultural Research Administration

Antibiotics Control Plant Diseases

Antibiotics, which have proved so valuable for man and animals, now look promising for controlling plant diseases. ARA scientists at Beltsville applied minute amounts of 12 antibiotics as a thin layer of paste to the stems of Black Valentine bean seedlings and then inoculated the plants with halo blight, a bacterial disease. Streptomycin sulfate protected the plants 100 percent. Two other antibiotics did fairly well. Plants treated with the other 9 antibiotics and the control plants developed the disease. Apparently the drug was absorbed by the stems and moved up to the leaves in sufficient amounts to prevent growth of the disease organisms.

These experiments, which demonstrate a new means of controlling bacterial disease in plants, open up a whole new approach to the control of plant diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, and viruses.

Blueprint for Farm Freezer

It's now or never for farmers to plan to save those fruits, vegetables, and frying chickens they can't consume this coming summer. They may want to freeze their surplus or they may plan to sell it. Either way, they will need a good cooling and freezing system. Farmers who want to build their own may now get plans for a two-temperature, walk-in refrigerator developed by ARA scientists.

These plans were developed after a survey of 160 home-built installations on farms showed that many were not designed to meet the farmers' needs. Some were improperly constructed or poorly insulated; others were too small, poorly arranged, or inconveniently located.

The new refrigerator-freezer was designed after months of research with experimental units. The chill room will cool one beef, or one large hog, or 600 pounds of other produce at a time. The freezer room will freeze 100 pounds a day.

Working drawings (Plan No. 7102) may be obtained through the State extension agricultural engineer or through the USDA, Division of Farm Buildings and Rural Housing, Beltsville, Md.

New Chemical Controls Weeds in Strawberries

The biggest weed problem in growing strawberries comes the first year. But it now looks as if this problem can be licked by a new chemical spray, known as Crag Herbicide-1. When applied to the soil in clean fields after strawberry plants are set, it acts as a pre-emergency herbicide on grasses and other weeds. ARA scientists in co-operation with several States have tested the spray on a large number of varieties with good results. At Beltsville last year the chemical

was applied on May 15, about 5 weeks after the berry plants were set. This controlled the weeds for 6 weeks, at which time the beds were cultivated. A second application on July 9 controlled the weeds into the early winter. No off-flavors, off-colors, or malformation in the berries have shown up, and little or no effects have been observed on runner production. The new chemical should be available this season.

Sawdust Makes Good Mulch

If sawdust is available free, it provides gardeners a good cheap soil conditioner. It makes a good mulch, or, when spaded under, it improves the structure of soils that lack humus and are inclined to bake or dry out. The main point to remember in using sawdust is to mix it with nitrogen. Soil bacteria and fungi that cause the sawdust to decompose must have nitrogen to do the job, and they will take it from the soil even at the expense of growing plants. ARA soil scientists say that four-fifths of a pound of ammonium sulfate or a half-pound of ammonium nitrate per bushel of loose sawdust will do the trick.

Take Your Choice

The old argument among Hereford cattle growers as to which color shade is the best can now be settled. ARA scientists at the Woodward, Okla., station compared the gains of 2,000 Hereford steers of light-red, dark-red, and intermediate-red color for 4 years under similar grazing conditions. The average gain by steers of different color shades was the same. Therefore, stockmen will go on selecting their steers according to color, just as they probably would have done anyhow.





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